

**PATENT**

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Application No.: 10/588,404  
Filing Date: August 3, 2006  
Applicant: Masaki Kitahara, et al.  
Group Art Unit: 2482  
Examiner: Hee-Yong Kim  
Title: VIDEO ENCODING METHOD AND APPARATUS,  
VIDEO DECODING METHOD AND APPARATUS,  
PROGRAMS THEREFOR, AND STORAGE MEDIA FOR  
STORING THE PROGRAMS  
Attorney Docket: 5259-000070/US/NP

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Mail Stop AF  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

**AMENDMENT IN RESPONSE TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION**

Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed September 13, 2011, please amend the application as follows and consider the remarks set forth below.

**Amendments to the Claims** begin on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 10 of this paper.